

WHITEHAVEN
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

Annual Report of M.O.H.

the Year 1925.

Please circulate as quickly as possible.

S.M.O. III.
(93 II).

S.M.O. II.
(86 II).

S.M.O. IV.
(91 II).

S.M.O. VI.
(39 II).

S.M.O. I.
(110 II).

ISON, M.C., M.A., M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

General Library.

WHITEHAVEN :

Printed by W. H. MOSS & SONS LTD., 13, Lowther Street.

1926.

WHITEHAVEN
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

For the Year 1925.

MALCOLM MANSON, M.C., M.A., M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

WHITEHAVEN :

Printed by W. H. MOSS & SONS LTD., 13, Lowther Street.

1926.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30273560>

To the Whitehaven Rural District Council.

WHITEHAVEN,

April 1st, 1926.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the year 1925. It is the desire of the Minister of Health that the Annual Report for 1925 should be a Survey Report, more comprehensive than the ordinary reports given in previous years, and should deal with, among other matters—

- (a) The measure of progress made in the area during the preceding five years in the improvement of the public health ;
- (b) The extent and the character of the changes made during that period in the public health services of the area ;
- (c) Any further action of importance in the organization or development of public health services contemplated by the Local Authority or considered desirable by the Medical Officer of Health.

It will therefore be necessary for me to deal more in detail than usual with the activities of the District Council as a Health Authority than I have done in previous years, and to discuss briefly what progress we have made during the period under review.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Area of Whitehaven Rural District in acres	...	74,172
Population (Census, 1921)	... ..	14,733
Population (estimated by Registrar General, 1925)	...	15,500
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)	... ..	2,875
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921)	... ..	2,969
Rateable Value	... ..	£140,050
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	... ..	£583

It will be seen that the population for the middle of 1925, as estimated by the Registrar General from information in his possession as to movement of population, and excess of births over deaths, is given as 15,500. This is less by 50 than the figure given for the previous year, and as the excess of births over deaths from the middle of 1924 to the middle of 1925 was

146 this means that practically 200 persons must have left the Rural District during that period without others coming to take their places. It is possible that this may have been the case, although I have not seen any sign of such a comparatively large migration, and in my opinion the population given by the Registrar General is an underestimate, the correct figure being more probably about 15,650. For the sake of uniformity, however, I have made use of the Registrar General's figure in estimating the Birth and Death Rates for the year.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.

The Whitehaven Rural District is an extensive tract of country, which in shape is roughly a parallelogram, running from north-west to south-east. It is almost completely divided into two portions, a smaller north-western and a larger south-eastern, by a narrow strip of country composed of the three Urban Districts of Arlecdon and Frizington, Cleator Moor and Egremont, which juts into the Whitehaven Rural District from its north-eastern extremity and runs in a south-western direction. The length of the parallelogram which forms the Rural District is, roughly, fifteen miles, and its breadth about ten miles. The area of the district is 74,172 acres.

The Whitehaven Rural District is bounded on the N.W. by the Harrington Urban District, the sea, and the Borough of Whitehaven ; on the S.W. by the sea ; on the N.E. by the Cockermouth Rural District ; and on the S.E. by the Bootle Rural District.

On its western side, the Rural District is mostly undulating agricultural land, with a number of industrial villages. On the east, it is largely fell and moorland and includes Ennerdale Lake and part of Wastwater.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The principal industries of the district are coal and iron mining, and agriculture, these employing between them more than half of the total number of employed in the whole area. The conditions under which the inhabitants live vary from those of thinly-populated sheep-farming districts, with isolated farms and cottages, to those of large industrial villages which show practically urban conditions on a small scale.

The amount of unemployment experienced during the past year has not been very great, in spite of the depression in the coal and iron industries, and the average number in receipt of

unemployment benefit during the year has been little more than one hundred per week throughout the entire district, while the amount of poor-law relief granted during the year has also not been very great.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Tables I. to V. in the Appendix to the Report give the principal Vital Statistics for the year 1925. Table I. also gives a comparison with those of the five preceding years. The number of births registered during the year was 304, of which 151 were male and 153 female. The Birth Rate for the year was 19.6, which is lower than that of any of the five previous years, with the exception of 1924, when it was 19.02. The tendency during the period of five years has been for the birth rate to fall more or less steadily, so that it is now much lower than it was in 1920 when the rate was 28.4. Of the 304 births registered during 1925, eleven were illegitimate.

The deaths registered as belonging to the Rural District numbered 168, for 1925, 80 male and 88 female. This gives a Death Rate of 10.4 per thousand of population, which, although higher than the figure for 1924, which was 9.2, is lower than that of any of the four preceding years. The Death Rate for the country as a whole was 12.2.

The deaths of children under one year numbered 23, giving an Infantile Mortality Rate of 75.6, which is, unfortunately, considerably higher than that of the two preceding years, which were 53.7 for 1923 and 50.0 for 1924. The principal cause of the increased infantile mortality was the eight deaths certified as due to bronchitis and broncho-pneumonia, which occurred for the most part early in the year when influenza was prevalent in the district.

Table II. in the Appendix gives a comparison of the Birth, Death and Infantile Mortality Rates of the District for the year 1925 with those of England and Wales as a whole, certain groups of towns, the County of Cumberland, and the Urban and Rural Districts of Cumberland.

Table III. gives the principal causes of the 168 deaths which occurred during the year. It will be seen that Cancer is the principal individual cause of death, being responsible for 17 deaths or over 10 per cent. of all the deaths. Heart disease and pneumonia were each credited with 15 deaths, bronchitis with 14, and tuberculosis and cerebral hæmorrhage with 13 each.

Of the 168 deaths occurring at all ages during the year, 64 or 38% occurred in persons over 65 years of age. Of these 64 deaths, 14 occurred in the age period 65—70, 19 in the period 70—75, 13 in the period 75—80, 13 in the period 80—85, 4 in the period 85—90, while one death occurred in the period 90—95.

Table IV. gives the deaths from the eight principal zymotic diseases during 1925. It will be seen that the only diseases represented are scarlet fever, whooping cough and diarrhoea and enteritis. The total number of deaths from these causes was 8, and the Zymotic Death Rate 0.51.

In Table V. will be found the principal causes of the 23 infantile deaths which occurred. It will be seen that bronchitis and pneumonia were together responsible for eight of these deaths, while prematurity, debility and congenital defects were responsible for seven. The deaths produced by both these groups of causes ought to be capable of reduction, as has been shown by the experience of previous years, and there is little doubt that increased care of the young child in the one case, especially in protecting it from possible infection by influenza or common colds, and increased care of the mother's health during the period of pregnancy in the other case, would result in a lower Infantile Death Rate than we have had for 1925.

* GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

HOSPITAL PROVISION.

(1) *Tuberculosis*.—Thirty beds for adult cases of tuberculosis are provided by the County Council for the whole county in Blencathra Sanatorium, Threlkeld. Similar accommodation is available for children suffering from tuberculosis at Stannington Sanatorium, Morpeth.

(2) *Maternity*.—In the new Whitehaven and West Cumberland Infirmary there is a maternity ward with six beds. Two of these beds are subsidised by the County Council and are available for suitable cases from the County area in West Cumberland, which includes the Whitehaven Rural District.

(3) *Children*.—There is no provision made by any local authority for children's hospital accommodation. There is, however, a children's ward in the Whitehaven and West Cumberland Infirmary, which, to some extent, meets this need.

(4) *Fever*.—Galemire Isolation Hospital, situated in the Whitehaven Rural District, and provided jointly by this and four other local authorities, is available for cases of infectious

disease other than smallpox. It contains forty-four beds and appears to be sufficient for the needs of the districts which it serves. Sixty-seven cases of infectious disease were admitted to this Hospital from the Rural District during 1925.

(5) *Smallpox*.—The Whitehaven Rural District Council is a contributing authority to the Derwent Joint Hospital Board, which has a hospital at Camerton. The hospital originally had six permanent beds, but has recently been considerably enlarged.

For the general medical and surgical needs of the District, the Whitehaven and West Cumberland Infirmary is available. This is a well-equipped hospital of 72 beds, with, in addition to the general wards, a children's ward, a maternity ward and labour room, and a splendid X-ray installation. An efficient electrical and light-treatment department is also being provided. For persons in need of parochial assistance the Whitehaven Union Hospital is also available.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) A motor ambulance is kept at Galemire Hospital for the removal of infectious cases.

(b) For accident cases occurring in the mines in the district a motor-ambulance, provided by the Mineowners' Association, is available. For other non-infectious cases a motor ambulance kept at the Whitehaven and West Cumberland Infirmary, and provided by the Whitehaven Branch of the St. John's Ambulance Association, is available.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Maternity and Child Welfare.—Maternity and Child Welfare work in the Rural District is carried out by the County Council. There are no Child Welfare Centres actually in the Rural District, but the County Centres at Cleator Moor and Egremont are to some extent made use of by mothers belonging to the Rural District, as is also the Borough of Whitehaven's Centre in Whitehaven.

Tuberculosis Dispensaries.—The Tuberculosis Dispensaries provided by the County Council in Whitehaven, Cleator Moor and Egremont are available for tuberculous persons belonging to the Rural District. The Dispensary at Whitehaven is in charge of your Medical Officer of Health, who is also Assistant County Tuberculosis Officer, while those at Cleator Moor and Egremont are in charge of two of the Assistant County Medical Officers.

Venereal Disease Clinic.—A Clinic where free advice and treatment is provided for sufferers from Venereal Disease is held one day each week, at the Whitehaven and West Cumberland Infirmary, under the charge of a Specialist Medical Officer on the staff of the County Council. This is available for the needs of the Rural District.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) *General.*—There are eight local Nursing Associations operating in different parts of the Rural District, which supply nine District Nurses, who do very useful work in the homes of people requiring their services. District Nurses are stationed in Hensingham, Parton, Distington, St. Bees, Gosforth, Lamplugh and Ennerdale. These are practically all trained midwives and undertake midwifery work in their districts, in addition to their other nursing work.

(b) *Infectious Diseases Nursing.*—There are no arrangements for undertaking the nursing of infectious cases in their homes. The vast majority of cases of scarlet fever, diphtheria and enteric fever are removed to hospital. Tuberculosis cases are visited by the Tuberculosis Nurses on the County Council's Staff.

Midwives.—There are eight trained midwives and one untrained or *bona-fide* midwife practising in the Rural District. The supervision of midwives is under the County Council, and all midwives are visited regularly by the County Inspector of Midwives.

Chemical Laboratory Work.—No special arrangements exist for carrying out chemical analyses of water, sewage effluents, etc., but all work required in this direction is done by Messrs. Hellon & Mann, Analytical Chemists, Whitehaven.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT.

There are no Local Acts or special Local Orders in force in the district.

The only Adoptive Acts which have so far been adopted are as follows :—

The Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890, Part I., adopted 1891.

The Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890, Sections 26, 27, 29, 30 and 31, adopted 1922.

The Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907, certain sections of Parts II., III. and IV., adopted 1923.

Regulations for the sanitary control of Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops were put in force by the Council in 1899, and were renewed in a strengthened form in 1923.

Bye-Laws are also in force in the district with regard to Nuisances (1898), Slaughter-houses (1898), Common Lodging Houses (1898), and New Streets and Buildings (1924).

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The Staff consists of: (a) The Medical Officer of Health, who is also Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer of the Borough of Whitehaven, Medical Officer of Health of Cleator Moor Urban District, and Assistant County Tuberculosis Officer.

(b) The Sanitary Inspector, who is also Inspector under the Housing Acts.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.—The District as a whole is well supplied with water of satisfactory quality. The sources of supply are many and various, as will be seen from Table XIII., which gives the source of supply of each parish in the Rural District. In only two parishes, Weddicar and Netherwasdale, is there no public water supply, and the inhabitants are dependent on private wells or springs, but as there are not many houses in either parish, this is not a serious matter. In about half of the parishes there is a public water supply provided by the Rural District Council. In Sandwith, Preston Quarter, Hensingham, Parton, Ennerdale and Kinniside, and part of Moresby, the supply is from the Whitehaven Water Works at Ennerdale Lake. St. Bees and Rottington are supplied from the Cleator Moor Council's works, Salter and Eskett from the Egremont Council's works, and part of Lamplugh from Arlecdon and Frizington. Parts of Distington and Moresby are supplied with water by the Moresby Coal Company. All the supplies are constant, and the source of supply in each case is such as to secure the greatest possible freedom from the risk of pollution. None of the waters have any appreciable plumbo-solvent action.

The chief improvement in the water supply of the district during the past five years has been the substitution in 1923 of the new Owsen Fell supply for Distington for the old unsatisfactory supply from Crummock Lake, by arrangement with the Workington Town Council. The new supply is a great improvement on the old in every way. Another improvement has been the increased provision of water for the housing scheme at Thornhill by the construction of a new reservoir at Winscales, with a capacity of 500,000 gallons.

In spite of the fact that in every parish except two there is a public water supply, one finds occasionally houses supplied from unsatisfactory sources, such as wells liable to pollution, even in places where there is no difficulty in connecting up with a proper supply. Wherever possible, these cases are being dealt with. At Gosforth Gate, for instance, there are four houses supplied from a well which has been shown by analysis of the water to be polluted. This case is being dealt with at the moment, and it is hoped to have the houses connected up to the public supply at an early date, and the well stopped from being used for cooking or drinking purposes.

Rivers and Streams.—Occasional complaints have been received of the pollution of different streams in the district, but none of a serious nature, and in all cases this has been remedied by removing the cause. The cause in most cases has been the faulty working of sewage disposal works belonging either to the Rural District Council or to neighbouring authorities.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

In a widely spread Rural District, where the population of the individual parishes varies from about 50 to over 2,000, it is to be expected that there will be wide variations in the drainage and sewerage arrangements. Thus, while some parishes are completely sewered, others have no sewerage schemes at all and the drainage of each separate house is left to the occupier or owner. It is impossible to go over the details of the nineteen parishes which form the Whitehaven Rural District, so far as drainage and sewerage are concerned, but it may be said that during the past few years considerable progress has been made in preparing and completing sewage disposal schemes for different parts of the area. Thus, during the five years under review, new schemes have been completed for Beckermest, Thornhill, Pica and Winder, all of which are satisfactory except, perhaps, that at Pica, which will not be used to its full capacity until the ninety houses at Pica have been connected up and their pail closets converted into water-closets. Of the older sewage disposal works, those at Parton and St. Bees, where the sewage is discharged into the sea, are perfectly satisfactory. The others, at Hensingham, Keekle, Howgate and Distington, while generally efficient, are not altogether satisfactory. They are all schemes involving land irrigation, and in no case does the land appear to be entirely suitable, while to be effective it requires more attention than it generally receives.

Of those parts of the district which are so far quite unprovided with a drainage scheme, the most outstanding are the villages of Gosforth and Sandwith. In Gosforth the drain-

age of the individual houses is into road-side water drains which discharge into water courses. This is a very unsatisfactory state of affairs, particularly at the Gosforth Gate end of the village, and the question of providing a proper drainage scheme should be seriously faced by the Council. In Sandwith the conditions are even worse than at Gosforth. The whole drainage of the village, with the exception of Lane Head, finds its way into an open stream which flows through the village. At Lane Head the drainage accumulates in a road-side ditch, and the result, especially in warm weather, is very disagreeable. The conditions prevalent both at Gosforth and at Sandwith have been reported to the Council from time to time both by myself and by the Sanitary Inspector, but the chief difficulty always has been the expense involved by such a scheme as is necessary. There is no doubt that the cost in each case would be very oppressive on the individual parishes involved, but there is no doubt as to the desirability of pressing on with these schemes at the earliest possible moment.

Other collections of houses requiring sewage disposal schemes are Crossgates and Fell Dyke in the parish of Lamplugh, and Moresby Parks in the parish of Moresby. At Moresby Parks especially, a proper sewage disposal scheme is required to deal not only with the 78 houses already built, or in course of building by the Council, but also the 90 houses owned by the Moresby Colliery Company. It is hoped that it may be possible to sewer a collection of about 20 houses at Lowmill, in the parish of Lowside Quarter, as soon as the Egremont District Council's new sewage disposal works have been constructed, as the main outfall sewer will pass close to these houses.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

I am informed by the Sanitary Inspector that there are approximately 1,598 water-closets, 1,014 privies, and 388 pail closets in the District. This means that, roughly, half the houses are supplied with water closets, and this in a Rural District must be considered to be fairly satisfactory. In several of the parishes conditions are very satisfactory, indeed. In Parton, for instance, no form of convenience except water-closets is to be found. In Hensingham 90%, in St. Bees 80%, in St. John's 70%, and in Distington 60% of the conveniences are water-closets. In the rest of the parishes, however, the conditions are much less satisfactory, and in some there are no water-closets at all. The policy of the Council for many years past has been to insist on conversion of privies and pail closets into water-closets wherever possible, and during the past few years there have been many such conversions.

Conversions of pail closets which are outstanding and ought to be dealt with are those at Pica and Moresby Parks. In the former case there is a sewage disposal works already provided, in the latter a proper scheme is a necessity. In Sandwith and Gosforth conversions of privies into water-closets cannot be effected until a proper scheme of sewerage is instituted.

In many parts of the District where houses are scattered, conversion of privies into water-closets cannot be looked for. In such cases the pail closet is a perfectly satisfactory convenience, and if properly attended to should not be responsible for any nuisance.

SCAVENGING.

The arrangements made for collection and disposal of house refuse vary widely throughout the District. In the more densely populated parts the Council has undertaken the responsibility for collection and disposal and carries out the work by contract. In the more thinly populated parts of the District the onus of disposal of refuse rests with the occupiers of individual houses. The areas for which the Council accepts responsibility are increasing steadily, and during the past few years the following additions have been made to the list—Swallow Hill, Distington; Moresby Parks; Thornhill; Cringlethwaite and Scurgill; Quality Corner, Scillybanks and Tivoli—while arrangements are being made at the moment for scavenging Beckermest. The disposal of the refuse is, as a rule, by dumping in old quarries or subsidences.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The work of the Sanitary Inspector has been carried out as in former years, to my satisfaction, and a large number of improvements of one kind or another have been effected. A record of the work done by the Inspector, the notices served, and the results obtained will be found in the Inspector's Annual Report, and in Tables VIII., IX., X., XI. and XII., which have been prepared by Mr. Ellwood and are given in the Appendix to this Report.

HOUSING.

In dealing with the question of housing in the Rural District, I propose to discuss first the conditions prevailing generally throughout the district, and afterwards deal with individual parishes. It may be said generally that the housing conditions throughout the district are by no means satisfactory, and that in some parishes a considerable degree of overcrowding exists. The overcrowding is even worse than

would appear from figures taken from the 1921 Census Report, for in these no account is taken of the sanitary condition of the houses occupied, whereas it is the case that in many houses one or more rooms may be in such a state as not to be occupied, so that overcrowding of the occupied rooms of these houses may result. The measure adopted in the Census Report of 1921, for estimating overcrowding, was to say that any house was overcrowded where the number of occupants averaged more than two to a room. On this standard 1,036 persons, or 7.5 per cent. of the population were found to be overcrowded. Since then 208 new houses have been built and occupied in the whole district. At the 1921 Census the average number of persons per family in the Rural District was 4.78, and multiplying 208 by this figure we get 994 occupants of these new houses. The population of the whole district having meanwhile increased from 14,733 to 15,500, *i.e.*, by 767 persons, it follows that the number of persons overcrowded to-day will be 1,036 minus the difference between 994 and 767 (227) *i.e.*, 809, or 5.2 per cent. of the population, as compared with 7.5 in 1921. To deal with this the Council is already engaged in building 50 houses at Thornhill, and 50 at Moresby Parks, while plans have been approved for building 26 houses at Hensingham, 10 at Distington, and 28 at Parton. This makes a total of 164 new houses either in course of building or about to be built, and multiplying this number by 4.78, we find that 784 persons will be provided for, and the number of overcrowded reduced to 25. It does not follow, of course, that the provision of these new houses will absolutely meet the problem of overcrowding, but it will go a very long way towards doing so, especially in the parishes where the houses are being built. It will not, however, enable us to deal with the insanitary houses which are unfit for human habitation and unable to be made so. There are a number of such houses to be found in several parts of the district, but it has not been possible during the past five years to deal with any of them by closure and demolition, simply because it has not been possible to provide other accommodation for their occupants. To enable its officers to deal with this problem as they ought to do it will be necessary for the Council to continue its building programme during the next few years. Such defects as can be remedied without closure of insanitary houses are pressed for by the Sanitary Inspector, wherever they are found, and a record of the work done in this direction will be found in Table IX. in the Appendix.

From the information given at the beginning of this Report it will be seen that at the time of the Census in 1921 there were 2,875 inhabited houses occupied by 2,969 families, an excess of 94 families over houses. Since then 208 new houses have

been occupied, 161 of which were built by the Council and 47 by private builders, so that theoretically there should now be no case of a house being occupied by more than one family. A considerable proportion of these new houses have, however, been occupied by people coming into the district from outside, so that it is likely that there are still a number of cases of more than one family occupying the same house. This ought to be relieved for the most part by the houses at present in course of erection, or about to be erected.

The following Table is taken from the 1921 Census Report and shows the population of each parish at the time of the Census, the number of private families, and the number of structurally separate dwellings occupied. The last three columns give the number of Council houses built since then, the number at present building, and the number for which plans have been passed.

TABLE

Showing Population, Private Families and Dwellings in Civil Parishes of Whitehaven Rural District at time of Census, 1921.

PARISH.			Population.	Private Families.	Private Dwellings.	COUNCIL HOUSES.		
						Built since 1921.	Building.	Plans Passed for Building.
St. Bridget	...	...	718	166	162	—	—	—
St. John	...	...	893	190	182	119	12	—
Distington	...	...	2,093	403	392	—	—	10
Ennerdale and Kinniside	...	...	415	84	84	—	—	—
Gosforth	...	...	922	209	208	—	—	—
Haile ...	...	...	291	59	59	—	—	—
Hensingham	...	...	2,312	486	472	—	—	26
Lamplugh	...	...	1,033	216	215	—	—	—
Lowside Quarter	...	...	624	118	117	14	38	—
Moresby	...	...	1,102	208	203	28	50	—
Netherwasdale	...	...	140	29	29	—	—	—
Parton	...	...	1,552	301	300	—	—	28
Ponsonby	...	...	153	27	27	—	—	—
Preston Quarter	...	...	228	42	42	—	—	—
Rottington	...	...	61	13	13	—	—	—
St. Bees	...	...	1,609	305	261	—	—	—
Salter and Eskett	...	...	166	33	33	—	—	—
Sandwith	...	...	366	73	69	—	—	—
Weddicar	...	...	55	7	7	—	—	—

From this Table it would appear that the shortage of houses was greater in 1921, in St. Bees, than in any other part of the District. What the real explanation of this apparent shortage of houses in St. Bees was I cannot say, but it is much in excess of the figure estimated by the Sanitary Inspector in his housing survey carried out in the previous year. It is certainly not the case that there is an actual shortage of 44 houses to-day, but if the report that coal measures have been struck in the recent borings at St. Bees is true, and that the coal is likely to be worked there, the Council will be faced with the question of providing houses there for the increased population. So far as the other parishes are concerned, the housing schemes already carried out or approved should go far towards meeting the need for new houses.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year—

(a) Total—6.

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts—

(1) By the Local Authority	...	...	0
(2) By other bodies or persons	...	...	5

I.—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

Inspection.

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)...	369
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	... .. 288
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... .. Nil.
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	... 260

II.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its officers 203
---	------------

III.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A.—Proceedings under Section 3 of Housing Act, 1925—

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 1
- (2) Number of houses rendered fit after service of formal notices—
- (a) By Owners ... Nil.
- (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners Nil.
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close Nil.

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

No proceedings were taken.

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925—

No proceedings were taken.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply.* I have not been able to inspect all the dairies and cowsheds in the District during 1925, but the Inspector informs me that the improvement noted in previous years, in the general condition of the cowsheds, cleanliness of the cows and methods of the milkers, has been maintained. Much remains to be done, however, before we can be satisfied with the conditions under which milk is produced and handled, particularly as regards the methods adopted by the milkers, the cleansing of milk vessels, cooling of milk, etc.

During the year new powers have been conferred on local authorities for dealing with milk by the coming into force, on September 1st, of the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, which provides the machinery for stopping any milk supply when it is thought to be likely to cause the spread of tuberculosis. The Tuberculosis Order, 1925, which also came into force on September 1st, enables an Authority to destroy any milch cow suffering from tuberculosis, the owner being compensated. This is a useful Order, and should be of value in helping to eradicate tuberculosis in cattle.

(b) *Meat Inspection.* The Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, which came into force on April 1st, 1925, have entailed an increase of work on the part of the Sanitary

Inspector. Butchers are now required to notify the Inspector regularly as to their times of killing, so that he may attend to inspect the meat and deal with any found unfit for human consumption. In a widely scattered Rural District, where the slaughter-houses are very far apart, it is impossible to inspect every carcase before disposal, but one good effect of the Regulations is that they make it much more difficult than formerly for any person to sell unsound meat. There has been some difficulty in dealing with one butcher who failed on several occasions to notify the Inspector of his intention to slaughter animals, the meat of which was afterwards sold in the neighbourhood, but it is hoped this difficulty has now been settled.

There are seven private slaughter-houses in the Rural District, no one of which is altogether satisfactory structurally. Of these slaughter-houses, six are Registered and one Licensed.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The numbers of the various notifiable infectious diseases notified during 1925 will be found in Tables VI. and VII. in the Appendix to this Report.

Diphtheria. Fifteen cases of diphtheria were notified during the year, of which eleven were removed to hospital. All fifteen made good recoveries, and no deaths occurred.

Scarlet Fever. Scarlet Fever was widely prevalent in the District throughout the greater part of the year, sixty-five cases in all being notified, of whom fifty-six were removed to hospital, while nine were isolated at home, mostly in isolated parts of the district. The disease was, fortunately, of a mild character. There were very few serious cases and only one death occurred.

Pneumonia. There were seven notifications of pneumonia and seven deaths from this disease. Such a heavy mortality suggests that only a proportion of the cases of pneumonia occurring throughout the year were notified to me.

Encephalitis Lethargica. One case of this disease was notified. The case was a moderately severe one, but the patient made a good recovery. He was not removed to hospital.

Chickenpox. Chickenpox has been a notifiable disease in the Rural District since 1920, and during the year twenty-one notifications of it were received. Owing to the prevalence of smallpox in many different parts of the country, it was thought advisable to visit many of these cases, in case any should turn out to be mild cases of smallpox. Fortunately, there was no doubt about the diagnosis in any of them.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Localised outbreaks of measles and whooping cough occurred during the year in different parts of the District, and a few of the country schools were closed for short periods on this account. Both diseases were, fortunately, of a mild type.

PROVISION OF DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXIN, EXAMINATION OF BACTERIOLOGICAL SPECIMENS, &c.

A supply of diphtheria antitoxin is kept in my office in Whitehaven, and is available for the use of the medical practitioners practising in the Rural District. In practice each practitioner keeps a small supply of antitoxin for immediate use in urgent cases, and any antitoxin so used is replaced on application to me.

Similarly, arrangements have been made by the Council for the examination by the Clinical Research Association, London, of any bacteriological or pathological specimens in cases of suspected infectious disease, where the patient is not in a position to pay for such examination.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE DURING THE FIVE YEARS, 1921—1925.

In reviewing the prevalence of infectious disease generally, in the Rural District, during the five years 1921—1925, it is interesting to observe that although the District has seldom been free for any length of time from one or other of the commoner infectious diseases in epidemic form, most of the epidemics have been of a mild character, and none has been characterised by very heavy mortality. Thus, so far as diphtheria is concerned, there have been 85 notifications of this disease in five years, more than half of which occurred in 1921, and the total deaths from diphtheria have numbered five. Of scarlet fever there have been 129 notifications in five years, more than half of them in 1925, and a total of four deaths. Enteric fever has been responsible for only six notifications in five years, one case proving fatal. Of puerperal fever there have been two notifications with one death, and of encephalitis lethargica there have also been two notifications in five years, with one death, but it is at least very doubtful whether the case which proved fatal was really one of this disease. Such diseases as smallpox and cerebro-spinal fever have not occurred at all in the District during the five years under review, while there has only been one notification of ophthalmia neonatorum.

So far as non-notifiable infectious diseases are concerned, there have been several outbreaks of both measles and whooping cough in different parts of the District during the five years, but only one death has been certified as due to measles, and eight as due to whooping cough.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Reference to Table VII. in the Appendix to this Report will show that fifteen cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year 1925, ten pulmonary and five non-pulmonary. This number compares favourably with that for the previous year when there were twenty-seven notifications of tuberculosis, eighteen pulmonary and nine non-pulmonary. The total number of deaths due to tuberculosis during the year was thirteen, nine of which were pulmonary and four non-pulmonary. Only one case had not been notified at the time of death. This is an improvement on previous years, and I am glad to be able to report that generally cases are being notified to me at an earlier stage than formerly, while a considerable number of doubtful cases are being sent to the Tuberculosis Dispensary for the benefit of a second opinion. It cannot be repeated too often that early diagnosis and early treatment are of the very first importance in successfully dealing with this disease. Nine patients from the Rural District were admitted to the Sanatorium during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

MALCOLM MANSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

APPENDIX TO ANNUAL REPORT.

TABLE I.—VITAL STATISTICS OF THE WHITEHAVEN
RURAL DISTRICT DURING 1925 AND FIVE
PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Popula- tion estimat'd to Middle of each year.	Nett Births belonging to the District.			Nett Deaths belonging to the District.					
		Total No.	Rate per 1,000 popu- lation.	Illegitimate No.	Under 1 Year of age.				At all Ages.	
					Total No.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Illegiti- mate No.	Rate per 1,000 Illeg. Births.	No.	Rate per 1,000 popu- lation.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.
1920	14,112	401	28·41	26	37	92·24	1	38·46	186	13·18
1921	14,820	366	22·34	20	29	79·23	2	100·0	159	10·72
1922	15,040	323	21·4	10	32	99·07	0	..	181	12·03
1923	15,240	335	21·9	14	18	53·73	0	..	166	10·89
1924	15,550	300	19·02	11	15	50·0	1	90·09	144	9·2
1925	15,500	304	19·6	11	23	75·6	0	..	168	10·4

TABLE II.

Showing a Comparison of the Birth, Death and Infantile Mortality Rates of Whitehaven Rural District, with those of (1) England and Wales as a whole ; (2) 105 great towns, including London ; (3) 157 smaller towns ; (4) London ; (5) County of Cumberland ; (6) Urban Districts of Cumberland ; and (7) Rural Districts of Cumberland.

	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Infantile Mortality Rate.
England and Wales	18·3	12·2	75
105 County Boroughs and great towns, including London ...	18·8	12·2	79
157 smaller towns (1921 Census populations 20,000 to 50,000) ...	18·3	11·2	74
London	18·0	11·7	67
County of Cumberland	18·9	13·4	85
Urban Districts of Cumberland ...	19·7	14·3	95
Rural Districts of Cumberland ...	17·8	12·4	71
Whitehaven Rural District	19·6	10·4	75·6

TABLE III.
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1925.

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.
All causes	80	88
Enteric Fever .. .. .	..	..
Smallpox .. .. .	..	..
Measles .. .. .	..	..
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	..	1
Whooping Cough	2	2
Diphtheria .. .. .	..	..
Influenza	3	3
Encephalitis Lethargica .. .. .	..	..
Meningococcal Meningitis .. .. .	..	..
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	7	2
Other Tuberculous Disease	1	3
Cancer, malignant disease	4	13
Rheumatic Fever .. .. .	..	..
Diabetes .. .. .	..	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	8	5
Heart Disease	7	8
Arterio-sclerosis	4	2
Bronchitis	5	9
Pneumonia (all forms)	8	7
Other Respiratory Diseases	3	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	1
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	2	1
Appendicitis and Typhlitis .. .. .	..	..
Cirrhosis of Liver .. .. .	..	..
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	2	1
Puerperal Sepsis .. .. .	..	..
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition .. .. .	..	2
Congenital Debility & Malformation, Premature Birth	3	5
Suicide	1	..
Other Deaths from Violence	7	..
Other Defined Diseases	12	20
Causes ill-defined or unknown .. .. .	..	..

TABLE IV.—DEATHS FROM EIGHT PRINCIPAL ZYMOTIC DISEASES IN 1925.

Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	0
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	0
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	4
Typhus	...	...	...	...	...	0
Typhoid (Enteric) Fever	...	...	...	...	...	0
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	...	...	...	...	...	0
Diarrhœa and Enteritis (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	...	3
						<hr/>
				Total	...	8

Zymotic Death-rate per 1,000 per annum—0·51.

TABLES V.—CAUSES OF INFANTILE DEATHS.

Premature Birth	...	..	...	...	5
Debility, Atrophy and Marasmus			...	...	1
Congenital Defects	...	...	...	...	1
Bronchitis and Pneumonia		...	...	...	8
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	2
Diarrhœa and Enteritis		...	...	...	2
Convulsions ...	...	...	...	...	2
Other Causes	...	...	...	...	2
				Total	23

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births—75·6.

TABLE VI.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Under 1 Year.	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	Over 65	Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria ...	15	...	...	1	...	2	5	2	1	4	...	...	...	11	...
Scarlet Fever ...	65	2	...	5	4	13	23	13	6	4	3	...	...	56	1
Enteric Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	1	2	...	...	7
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	...	...
Smallpox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chickenpox ...	21	...	...	2	1	2	9	2	4	1	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

TABLE VII.—TUBERCULOSIS. NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—1 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—5 ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
5—10 ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
10—15 ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
15—20 ...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
20—25 ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25—35 ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
35—45 ...	...	3	...	...	3	2	...	...
45—55 ...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
55—65 ...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Totals ...	6	4	3	2	7	2	1	3

TABLE VIII.—SHOWING CHARACTER AND NUMBER OF NUISANCES FOUND AND ABATED.

Accumulation of Manure and other Refuse ...	...	30
Choked Drains ...	...	29
Overflow from Cesspools ...	...	3
Pail Closets and Privies ...	...	34
Water Closets ...	...	28
Dwelling-houses overcrowded ...	...	2
„ „ in a filthy condition ...	...	2
Slaughter-house Refuse ...	...	2
Keeping of Animals ...	...	1
Buildings in dangerous state ...	...	3

TABLE IX.—INSPECTIONS UNDER THE HOUSING,
TOWN PLANNING, &c., ACT, 1909, MADE
DURING THE YEAR 1925.

PARISH.	Number of Houses Inspected.	Number of Informal Notices to Remedy Defects.	Number of Statutory Notices Served.	Number of Notices Complied with.	Number of Cases where work is in hand.	Number of Notices not com- plied with.
Distington	56	52	...	50	2	...
Ennerdale & Kinniside	2	2	...	2	...	...
Gosforth	16	13	...	11	1	1
Haile	5	5	...	3	2	...
Hensingham & Weddicar	75	63	...	53	7	3
Lamplugh	16	16	...	12	2	2
Lowside Quarter ...	6	4	...	3	1	...
Moresby... ..	19	17	...	12	4	1
Netherwasdale	3	3	...	3	...	...
Parton	50	49	...	46	1	2
Ponsonby	6	3	...	2	1	...
Preston Quarter	10	8	...	7	1	...
Sandwith & Rottington	12	10	...	8	1	1
St. Bees	26	23	...	18	3	2
St. Bridget's	15	12	...	9	2	1
St. John's	36	33	...	29	2	2
Salter and Eskett ...	6	6	...	5	1	...
Total	359	319	...	273	31	15

TABLE X.—SHOWING THE CHARACTER AND NUMBER OF DEFECTS
FOUND TO EXIST.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.			DRAINAGE.						DWELLING HOUSES.									
In-sufficient.	DEFECTIVE.		Insufficient.	Choked or Defective.	Untrapped Drain Inlets.	DEFECTIVE.				Roofs and Chimneys.	Walls.	Windows.	Cellings.	Floors.	Paving of Yards.	Spouting.	Doors.	
	Pail Closets & Ashpits.	W.C.'s and Flushing Apparatus.				Ventilation Shafts.	Sub-soil Drains.	Sinkstone Waste Pipes.	Gullies.									
14	50	137	25	77	2	3	3	4	8	189	12	19	26	49	52	22	18	

TABLE X.— <i>continued</i>	DWELLING HOUSES.										WATER SUPPLY.		TOTAL.
	DEFECTIVE.					Damp Walls.	Insufficient Light and Ventilation.	Dangerous Buildings.	WATER SUPPLY.		Insufficient and Defective.	Waste.	
	Door Steps and Stairs.	Plaster.	Fire Grates and Ovens.	Wash Boilers.									
	10	44	18	4	28	9	3	72	3	901			

TABLE XI.—SHEWING THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED WORKSHOPS IN THE RURAL DISTRICT OF WHITEHAVEN DURING THE YEAR 1925, AND THE NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED THEREIN.

Nature of Business.	No. of Work-shops.	Number of Persons Employed.		
		Male.	Female.	Total.
Joiners	11	19	..	19
Blacksmiths	9	15	...	15
Dressmakers	6	...	18	18
Tailors	4	8	2	10
Shoemakers	10	19	...	19
Cloggers	3	5	...	5
Painters	3	6	...	6
Plumbers	2	3	...	3
Pickles, Sauces, &c.	1	2	...	2
Confectioners	6	...	13	13
Motor Repairers	6	25	...	25
Total	61	102	33	135

TABLE XII.—FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

In accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health, particulars relating to Factories and Workshops are set out in the following Table:—

PREMISES. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	3	1	..
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	122	18	..
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' Premises)	..	..	..
TOTAL	125	19	..

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES.

PARTICULARS. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecu- tions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Want of Cleanliness	9	9	..	..
Want of Ventilation	1	1	..	..
Overcrowding .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Want of Drainage of Floors .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Other Nuisances .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Sanitary Ac- commodation { Insufficient	1	1	..	..
{ Unsuitable or Defective	8	8	..	..
{ Not separate for Sexes .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Offences under the Factory and Work- shops Acts :—				
Illegal Occupation of Underground Bakehouse .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Other Offences (Excluding offences relating to out work and offences under the Section men- tioned in the Schedule to the Minis- try of Health (Factories & Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.)	..	..	..	..
Total	19	19	..	..

TABLE XIII.—WATER SUPPLIES IN WHITEHAVEN
RURAL DISTRICT.

Parish.	Village or Hamlet	Source of Supply.	By whom supplied.
St. Bees ...	St. Bees... ..	Springs on Dent ...	R.D.C. who purchase the water in bulk.
Rottington ...	Rottington	" " ...	" " "
Sandwith ...	Sandwith	Ennerdale Lake ...	R.D.C. who purchase in bulk.
Preston Quarter...	Hut Bank and Houses and works adjacent	" " ...	" " "
Hensingham ...	Hensingham and Keekle	" " ...	Whitehaven Town Council.
Moresby ...	Scilly Banks	" " ...	R.D.C., who purchase in bulk.
	Moresby Parks... ..	" " ...	Moresby Coal Co.
	Howgate	Springs over Sandstone at the High, Moresby	R.D.C.
Parton ...	Parton	Ennerdale Lake ...	R.D.C., who purchase in bulk.
Distington ...	Distington	Springs on Owsen Fell	R.D.C.
	Pica	Oatlands Pit	Moresby Coal Co.
Lamplugh ...	Kirkland	Springs from gravel over slate rock on Owsen Fell ...	R.D.C.
	Crossgates	" " ...	R.D.C.
	Winder	Cogra Moss	Arledon & Frizington Urban District Council
Ennerdale and Kinniside	Ennerdale Bridge ...	Ennerdale Lake ...	Whitehaven Town Council.
Salter and Eskett	Salter and Eskett ...	Cogra Moss	Egremont Urban District Council.
Netherwasdale ...	Strands	Springs	R.D.C.
Gosforth ...	Gosforth, Hall Senna ...	Springs from gravel over volcanic rock in the valleys of Scale Beck, Peagill and Bengarthgill in the hills above Gosforth	Whitehaven Rural District Council.
Ponsonby ...	Ponsonby, Calder ...		" "
St. Bridget ...	Calderbridge, Blaekbeck, and part of Beckermat		" "
St. John ...	Part of Beckermat, Low Mill, Cringlethwaite and Scurgill		" "
Lowside Quarter	Low Mill, Braystones, Nethertown, Middletown, Coulderton		" "
Haile ...	Haile	Springs	" "
Weddicar ...	Weddicar		" "

All the supplies are constant. The source of supply in each case is such as to secure the greatest possible freedom from the risk of organic contamination. None of the waters has any appreciable plumbo-solvent action.

TROUGHTON HOUSE,

CLEATOR MOOR,

1st April, 1926.

The Whitehaven Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Ninth Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1925.

Tables VIII., IX., X., XI., XII. and XIII. have been prepared for and included in the Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

Infectious Diseases.—Largely owing to an epidemic of scarlet fever the number of cases of infectious diseases again has been high, one hundred and thirty being notified. There were one hundred and twenty-seven cases notified in 1924, and fifty-four cases in 1923.

Of eighty cases of diphtheria and scarlet fever notified, sixty-seven were removed to the Infectious Diseases Hospital at Galemire. The remainder were treated at home, mostly in isolated houses in remote parts of the District.

In all cases careful enquiry into the origin was made, and a supply of disinfectant left, with instructions for its proper use.

One hundred and three rooms used by infectious persons were fumigated.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.—Except a scheme to deal temporarily with sewage from the Council's new houses at Moresby Parks, no new schemes have been executed during the year.

Schemes recently completed at Pica, in the Parish of Distington, Thornhill, in the Parish of St. John, Winder, in the Parish of Lamplugh, and at Beckermest, in the Parishes of St. Bridget, St. John and Haile are satisfactory.

Improvement of the outfall works at Keekle, in the Parish of Hensingham, and at Hensingham might be effected.

Schemes to deal with sewage at Sandwith and Gosforth Gate, in the Parish of Gosforth, will be submitted to the Council at an early date.

Water Supply.—Generally, the District is well supplied with water.

From time to time, however, there is shortage, more particularly at houses at the higher parts of Hensingham, and at Parton, due to corrosion of the service pipes and not to scarcity of water. As these are discovered, steps are taken to have defective pipes replaced and the supplies improved.

New water service pipes have been provided for houses in the following Parishes :—Hensingham, Distington, Parton and Lamplugh.

Owing to the altitude of Scilly Banks, in the Parish of Moresby, difficulty is often experienced in getting delivery of sufficient water into the storage reservoir near the houses. Some effort ought to be made to secure improvement in this direction.

Table XIII. gives the sources of supplies in the District.

Housing.—Six houses only have been erected during the year, all by private enterprise. Of these, five are subsidy houses.

One house at Distington is in course of erection.

The Council have in hand the erection of fifty houses at Thornhill, in the Parish of St. John, and fifty at Moresby Parks, in the Parish of Moresby.

A scheme for the erection of twenty-six houses at Hensingham, twenty-eight at Parton, and ten at Distington has been approved by the Council, and is being pressed forward with all possible speed.

When completed, the most urgent needs of these Parishes may be met ; but all cases of overcrowding and other unsatisfactory housing conditions will not have been dealt with.

Steady progress in improvement of defective houses is being made. Several owners, however, state they have great difficulty in paying the heavy cost of repairs, owing to great arrears of rent, and with little prospect of recovering them.

It is usually possible to get repairs carried out without service of Statutory Notices.

Works were executed by the Council in default of the owners in three instances.

One certificate was issued under the Rent Restriction Acts.

The Seal of the Council was affixed to an Intermediate Series of Building Bye-laws on 13th November, 1924, and allowed by the Minister of Health on 25th February, 1925.

Closet Accommodation.—Two new water-closets and two new pail-closets for four new houses have been provided, and two pail-closets converted into water-closets.

There are approximately 1,598 water-closets, 1,014 privies and 388 pail-closets in the District.

Whenever possible, the conversion of privies and pail-closets into water-closets is urged.

Scavenging.—The Council have undertaken the removal of house refuse from premises at Tivoli, Quality Corner and Scilly Banks, in the Parish of Moresby, once a week, and from a place for the temporary deposit of refuse at Walkmill Cottages, in the same Parish, once a month.

The Council contract for the removal of house refuse in the following Parishes (or parts thereof) :—St. John, Moresby, Hensingham, Lamplugh, Parton, Distington and St. Bees.

Dairies and Cowsheds.—There are seventy-two milksellers on the Register. Regular periodical visits of inspection are made.

Forty-two informal notices with regard to the removal of manure, cleanliness of cowsheds, limewashing, defects of pavement of floors, light, ventilation and drainage have been served and complied with.

In most instances much improvement is noticeable ; and there appears to be a growing desire on the part of milksellers for further improvement in these matters.

Bakehouses.—There are six bakehouses on the Register. Twelve visits of inspection were made. No defects or conditions were found which required service of notices.

Slaughter-houses.—There are seven slaughter-houses on the Register. Three informal notices in respect of breach of bye-laws for cleanliness were served and complied with.

One carcase of a heifer was found to be so affected with tuberculosis as to render it unfit for human consumption. It was properly disposed of.

Copies of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, a circular letter from the Minister of Health, and a Notice to Meat Traders, Farmers and the Public were sent to each butcher in the District.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.—After a period of apparent apathy with regard to the destruction of food by rats and mice, many people are beginning to realise that the extermination of these pests is desirable.

Sixteen card vessels containing poison have been distributed gratis during the year. Although the number of rats destroyed is not available, the reports received are satisfactory.

Information having been received that certain mussel beds in the Millom area were seriously polluted, immediate steps were taken to prevent any being used in this District for human consumption.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

JASON ELLWOOD.

